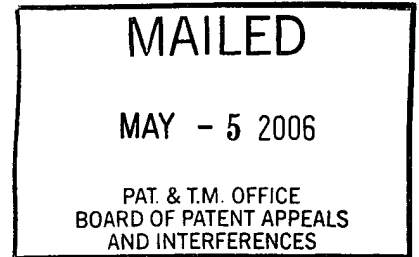


UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

\_\_\_\_\_  
BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS  
AND INTERFERENCES

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ex parte JOHN H. SCHNEIDER  
\_\_\_\_\_

Application No. 09/916,546



\_\_\_\_\_  
ORDER RETURNING UNDOCKETED APPEAL TO EXAMINER  
\_\_\_\_\_

This application was electronically received at the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences on April 18, 2006. A review of the application has revealed that the application is not ready for docketing as an appeal. Accordingly, the application is herewith being returned to the examiner. The matters requiring attention prior to docketing are identified below.

On May 31, 2005, appellant filed an Information Disclosure Statement (IDS). It is not clear from the record whether the examiner considered the IDS submitted or whether the examiner notified appellant of why the submission did not meet the criteria set forth in 37 CFR §§ 1.97 and 1.98.

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Also, a review of the file indicates that the appeal brief filed January 18, 2005 does not fully comply with 37 CFR § 41.37(c).

37 CFR § 41.37(c) states in part:

(c)(1) The brief shall contain the following items under appropriate headings and in the order indicated in paragraphs (c)(1)(I) through (c)(1)(x) of this section, except that a brief filed by an appellant who is not represented by a registered practitioner need only substantially comply with paragraphs (c)(1)(I) through (c)(1)(iv) and (c)(1)(vii) through (c)(1)(x) of this section:

(ix) *Evidence appendix*. An appendix containing copies of any evidence submitted pursuant to §§ 1.130, 1.131, or 1.132 of this title or of any other evidence entered by the examiner and relied upon by appellant in the appeal, along with a statement setting forth where in the record that evidence was entered in the record by the examiner. Reference to unentered evidence is not permitted in the brief. See § 41.33 for treatment of evidence submitted after appeal. This appendix may also include copies of the evidence relied upon by the examiner as to grounds of rejection to be reviewed on appeal.

(x) *Related proceedings appendix*. An appendix containing copies of decisions rendered by a court or the Board in any proceeding identified pursuant to paragraph (c)(1)(ii) of this section.

A review of the application indicates that the following appropriate sections are missing from the appeal brief filed January 18, 2005:

1) "Evidence appendix" as set forth in 37 CFR § 41.37(c)(1)(ix); and

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2) "Related proceedings appendix" as set forth in 37 CFR § 41.37(c)(1)(x).

A supplemental appeal brief that is in compliance with 37 CFR § 41.37 is required. For more information on the Board's new rules see the web page entitled More Information on the Rules of Practice Before the BPAI, Final Rule at:

<http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/dcom/bpai/fr2004/moreinfo.html>.

Accordingly, it is

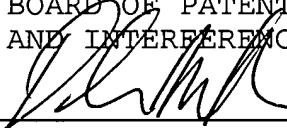
ORDERED that this application be returned to the examiner to: 1) consider the Information Disclosure Statement filed May 31, 2005; 2) provide appropriate written notification by the examiner to appellant of such consideration; 3) hold the appeal brief of January 18, 2005 defective; 4) request appellant to file a supplemental appeal brief in compliance with 37 CFR

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§ 41.37 or to have the examiner submit a statement regarding assumptions made on the missing appendices; and 5) for such further action as may be appropriate.

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AND INTERFERENCES

By: \_\_\_\_\_

  
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DMS/tdl